

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2975

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: FO-DGB OPPOSITION TO CGT AFFILIATION WITH
ETUC

1. SPEAKING AT A RENTREE RALLY 9 AUGUST BERGERON,
FO SEC. GEN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ANNOUNCE THAT AT THE
3-4 AUGUST MEETING BETWEEN FO AND DGB DELEGATIONS IN
PARIS (LATER HEADED BY DGB PRESIDENT VETTER) A CLEAR
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO OPPOSE CGT ADMISSION INTO
ETUC AS LONG AS CGT REMAINS AFFILIATED WITH WFTU.

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2. BERGERON POINTED OUT THAT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CLEARED WITH VETTER IN ADVANCE AND WAS INTENDED TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHERE DGB STOOD ON THIS ISSUE. BERGERON'S STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT APPLAUSE BY RECORD ATTENDANCE OF 3000 FO MILITANTS WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT HISTORY HELD A RENTREE RALLY IN LA MUTUALITE, ONE OF PARIS'S BIG MEETING HALLS.

3. ANOTHER HIGH POINT OF BERGERON'S SPEECH WAS HIS 'VIBRANT' TRIBUTE TO LUCIDITY AND COURAGE OF MARIO SOARES WHICH WAS GREETED WITH THUNDERING APPLAUSE BY THE FO MILITANTS. THIS GAVE ANOTHER MEASURE OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH PORTUGUESE EVENTS ARE DIVIDING FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION AND OF THE STRENGTH OF FO MILITANT'S COMMITMENT TO ANTI-COMMUNISM. THE OLDTIMERS IN FO KNOW WELL WHAT IT MEANS TO TRY TO ASSERT DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN A CHALLENGE TO INTERSYNDICAL.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH LABATT AFTER FOREGOING RALLY BERGERON AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FO EXECUTIVE BUREAU EXPRESSED UNQUALIFIED SATISFACTION WITH FO-DGB MEETING ABOVE. FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY FELT THAT THEY HAD REACHED A MEETING OF THE MINDS WITH DGB LEADERS WHICH DISSIPATED FO'S CHRONIC FEARS OF BEING ISOLATED (AS TOO RIGID) IN ETUC AND ICFTU CIRCLES. THEY POINTED OUT TO DGB INVITATION TO FO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (47 MEMBERS IN ALL) TO VISIT FRG FOR THREE DAYS NEXT YEAR AS A SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP AND IDEOLOGICAL AGREEMENT.

5. IRVING BROWN SHARES FOREGOING FEELING OF SUCCESS IN FO-DGB MEETING. HE IS LEAVING PARIS SEPTEMBER 10 FOR STILL ANOTHER VISIT TO DGB.
RUSH

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